

B-RAP news

Business RECYCLING Assistance Program

Waste Management Information for South Carolina Businesses

September 22, 2005

B-RAP honors top S.C. business recycling programs

Columbia, S.C. – Three businesses and one local government were recognized by the Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP) in September for outstanding waste reduction and recycling efforts. The awards ceremony took place during the annual Recycling Business Forum held at the Michelin Conference Center in Greenville.

S&T Grading and Excavation

of Lexington received the award for Best C&D Recycling Effort. The award recognized the company's work to recycle construction and demolition (C&D) debris. According to Mike Sturkie, president of the company, recycling C&D debris is gaining greater acceptance as land availability dwindles and population growth continues. S&T realized the value in converting materials like concrete, asphalt, bricks and land-clearing debris into new products that are sold to customers instead of simply placing these items in a C&D landfill. S&T diverted 95 percent of the concrete, asphalt and bricks that came into his facility from landfill disposal – crushing 42,000 tons of material to generate various sizes of aggregate that was in turn sold to construction customers. S&T also recycled nearly 15,000 tons of land-clearing debris into topsoil, landscape mulch and boiler fuel.



Left: Greenville County received the B-RAP award for Best Office Recycling Program. Vickie Williams, Greenville County recycling coordinator, and Butch Kirven, Greenville County Council chairman, accepted the award on behalf of the county.

Right: Ted Campbell (right) presents Mike Sturkie, president of S&T Grading and Excavation, with the award for Best C&D Recycling Effort.



used motor oil in 2004. It also recycled 1,295 pounds of reusable air bags that were used in packaging instead of loose polystyrene.

Alcoa Mt. Holly was recognized as the Best Large Industry Recycling Program. The Berkeley County-based manufacturer has been a leader in many ways with regard to recycling, waste reduction and sustainable activities.

In 2004, the company was successful in recycling 72 percent of its total solid waste – well on its way to meeting its zero waste goal by 2020. In addition to recycling materials generated at its plant, Alcoa also provides a recycling collection center for its employees to bring materials from home. Since this program was started in 1990, more than 400 tons of recyclable material and another 1,774 tons of scrap wood have been recycled. The aluminum manufacturer has saved more than \$1.8 million in avoided landfill disposal costs.

Greenville County was recognized as having the Best Office Recycling Program in recognition of the county's efforts to motivate its employees and improve recycling collections in county offices. By playing on the common practice of tossing scrap paper like it was a game

winning basketball shot, the Play Paperball theme helped create a fun way to get employees to recycle their office paper. The rules of the game were printed on stickers that were placed on each employee's recycling bin, providing valuable information about what was recyclable and what wasn't. The county also provided incentives to its janitorial crew to increase the tonnages collected. The county was able to reduce the volume of its garbage by one-third in just a few months.

B-RAP is a collaborative partnership of the S.C. Department of Commerce and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control that provides free technical assistance to business, industry, government agencies and other interested organizations. For more information on B-RAP, visit www.scdhec.gov/brap.

Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company was named the state's Best Small Industry Recycling Program. Chicago Pneumatic overcame the obstacles associated with downsizing from a large manufacturing operation with 300 employees to a distribution center that employs about 90 people. Despite this significant change in operations, Chicago Pneumatic's commitment to recycling increased. The company experienced significant cost savings from its efforts to recycle cardboard, reducing its commercial garbage collection from twice a week to once a month. In fact, the \$800 a month savings helped them push for greater recycling efforts on the part of their employees. The Rock Hill company recycled more than 38,000 tons of cardboard, 26,744 tons of office paper, 29 tons of scrap metal, nearly 38 tons of skids and 50 gallons of



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